THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF MOSSLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1898.

JOHN HEALEY, M.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FEBRUARY 6th, 1899.

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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

MOSSLEY,

FEBRUARY 6TH, 1899.

Annual Report for 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my Third Annual Report. The chief facts to which I wish to call your attention are, the high zymotic death-rate; the increase in the birth-rate; the increase in the death-rate (general), though this is not an excessive one; and the increase in the infant mortality chiefly due to the epidemic of Measles. I propose to adhere to the plan adopted in former years of dividing this report into three parts.

I. The number of births registered during the year was 370, 187 males, 183 females, being an increase on the number in 1897, which was 343. The number of deaths during the same period was 255, 127 males, 128 females, being a large increase on the number in 1897, which was 189.

The natural increase at the end of the year being the excess of births over deaths was 115, as compared with 154 in 1897, and 133 in 1896. There were 39 deaths from zymotic diseases, 19 more than in the previous year. This increase is largely due to the number (17) of children who died from Measles during the epidemic in March and April, and from Diarrhœa (9) in the latter part of the year. This gives us a zymotic death-rate of 2·6 per 1000 population, and 152·9 per 1000 deaths.

Of these	1	died from	Scarlet Fever.
	3	,,	Diphtheria.
	5	,,	Typhoid Fever.
	17	,,	Measles.
	4	,,	Whooping Cough.
	9	,,	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.

The birth-rate for the year was 25·02, in 1897 it was 23·8; and the death-rate 17·24, in 1897, 12·9 per 1000 population.

The number of infants who died under the age of twelve months was 56, as compared with 39 in

1897, and 54 in 1896. The chief causes of death in these cases were Measles, Diarrhœa, Diseases of the Chest, and Convulsions.

II. With regard to the Sanitary Work done during the year, there were 53 cases of Infectious Disease reported, one more than in the previous year. The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act is not in force, notification being purely voluntary. I take this opportunity of again urging this Committee to adopt this Act, as I have been informed from two distinct sources that all cases of Infectious Disease are not notified. The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, and the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, are in force.

The following table shews the number of notified cases and of deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases :—

		Notified Cases.	Deaths.
a	Diphtheria	2	3
b	Typhoid Fever	12	5
c	Measles	0	17
d	Whooping Cough	0	4
e	Small Pox	0	0
f	Scarlet Fever	38	1
g	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	0	9

This makes the zymotic death-rate 2·6 per 1000 population, 152·9 per 1000 deaths, as compared with 1·3 and 105·8 in 1897.

53 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified; 32 houses, 2 infant schools, and the whole of Roughtown School were disinfected. In every case where Infectious Disease was reported, the house was visited by myself, disinfectants supplied, and printed instructions for the prevention of the spread of the disease, left, and in every case notified by the tenant, was again visited and disinfected with Carbolic Acid and Sulphur.

We have no apparatus for disinfecting clothing and bedding.

With regard to Scarlet Fever, of which disease we have more cases than any other, there were 38 cases notified, 3 less than the year before. Of these, there were 13 cases in January and February, and 16 from June to October, with odd cases at intervals.

In January and February the disease was prevalent in Upper Mossley and Roughtown, and in July, August, and September, the majority of the cases occurred in Roaches, with odd cases in Upper Mossley and Carrbrook. As this disease is endemic, cases occurring practically all the year round, and as many as four cases have been notified in one house, I again advise the Committee on the advisability of having a suitable building or of joining with some neighbouring town in a building for the isolation of such cases.

May Hills Hospital can only be used for Small Pox.

There were no cases of Small Pox.

There were 3 cases of Diphtheria, though only 2 were notified, as compared with 7 cases last year.

There were 12 cases of Typhoid Fever notified during the year, and 5 deaths, as compared with 3 notified and 1 death in 1897. All these cases were sporadic cases, no connection could be traced between any two. Many defective drains and slopstone pipes were found in the houses where these cases occurred and have since been remedied. There were 2 cases in January, 3 in May, 6 in October, and 1 in December. There was no reason to suspect the water supply.

In the beginning of March I made a special report on the Epidemic of Measles, and advised the closure of the schools in Mossley and Roughtown, which advice was carried out. The epidemic which occurred during the months of March and April was a very severe one, during this time there were 17 deaths from Measles, the greater number occurring in infants under 1 year.

With regard to the Water Supply. Since the lower part of the town has been supplied solely from

the springs at Yeoman Hey, it has been very satisfactory. The water supplied to the other parts of the town is also satisfactory.

There has been no case of death from lead poisoning reported during the year.

There was 1 case of Puerperal Fever reported.

During the year, 17 samples of articles within the definition of food have been taken, all of which the Analyst reported as genuine.

Arrangements have been made with Dr. Delépine at the Bacteriological Department of Owen's College, Manchester, for the examination of a drop of blood from the patient in all doubtful cases of Typhoid Fever.

I have inspected and notified any insanitary condition of the district, and where necessary, notice has been given for the removal of the nuisance. I have visited the registered lodging houses, bake-houses, slaughter-houses, cow-sheds, and where necessary, have ordered the cleansing and lime-washing of the same. I have attended the meetings of the Health Committee, and have advised on matters concerning the Public Health.

The Sewage Works are working satisfactorily.

III. There are at present four cases of Infectious Disease in the town, and except for the recurrence of Scarlet Fever, I think the general health of the district may be considered satisfactory. There is a great deal of sanitary work connected with house drainage and traps being carried out, and I expect by the end of this year we shall have a great many more cottages in a more sanitary condition.

The type of Scarlet Fever we had in 1898 was not so severe as in the year before.

The Epidemic of Measles which occurred mostly in Mossley, to a less extent in Micklehurst, was more severe.

There were many deaths from Diarrhœa in infants during the latter part of the year.

The chief diseases of the district are Consumption, Diseases of the Chest, Heart Disease, and those incidental to childhood.

I now give the Tables of Mortality, Birth and Death Rates, as required by the Local Government Board.

Table of Deaths in the year 1898, in the Mossley Urban District, classified according to age.

Under 1 year	56
Between 1 and 5 years	39
„ 5 „ 15 „	11
„ 15 „ 25 „	12
„ 25 „ 65 „	79
65 years and upwards	58
Total	255

Causes of Death.

Small Pox		0
Diphtheria		3
Scarlet Fever		1
Membranous Croup		0
Fevers	Typhus	0
	Enteric or Typhoid	5
	Continued	0
	Relapsing	0
	Puerperal	0
Cholera		0
Erysipelas		0
Measles		17
Whooping Cough		4
Diarrhœa and Dysentery		9
Rheumatic Fever		1

Phthisis	22
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	47
Heart Disease	23
Influenza	4
Cancer	17
Injuries	1
Other Diseases	101
Total	255

There were 8 Inquests.

Table of Population, Births, and New Cases of Infectious Disease, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898.

Area in Statute Acres	3,929
Census, 1891	14,242
Population, estimated to the end of 1898	14,865
Number of Registered Births	370
Increase in the Population	115

Notified Cases.

Scarlet Fever	38
Diphtheria	2
Enteric or Typhoid	12
Puerperal	1

Not Notified.

Scarlet Fever	1
Diphtheria	1

Birth-Rate.....	25·02	per	1000	population
Death-Rate, General ..	17·24	,,	,,	,,
,, Consumption	1·4	,,	,,	,,
,, Bronchitis, ,, Pneumonia, ,, Pleurisy ..	3·19	,,	,,	,,
,, Heart Disease	1·5	,,	,,	,,
,, Infants	3·7	,,	,,	,,
,, Zymotic	2·6	,,	,,	,,

Infant Death-Rate per 1000 Births registered 151·35
Zymotic ,, ,, Deaths ,, 152·9

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours Faithfully,

JOHN HEALEY, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

JANUARY 7TH, 1899.

I beg to present you with my First Annual Report of the Sanitary Work done during the year 1898.

Number of Public Schools fumigated	3
,, Houses fumigated	32
,, General Nuisances abated	66
,, Notices served.....	36
New Closets built	11

I beg to give a return of the number of Pails emptied, and the number of Loads of Ashes removed.

	Pails Emptied.	Loads of Ashes Removed.
January.....	4124	256
February	4124	256
March	5155	320
April	4124	256
May	4124	256
June	5155	320
July	4124	256
August	4124	280
September	5155	350
October	5155	350
November	3093	210
December	5155	350
	53,612	3,460

The following Property has been put in a Sanitary Condition for Drainage, &c., since August 8th, 1898.

Number of Houses.	Owners.	Situated at.
7	Co-operative Society	Waterton Lane.
7	Giles Winterbottom	Old Brow.
2	Alderman Mills	Albion Street.
10	Fletcher, Holmes, and Wainwright, Agents	Stamford Road.
13	Fred Mellor, Agent	Trafalgar Square.
10	Mr. Crossley, Pawnbroker	Barkwell Lane and Stamford Street.
11	Miss Beswick	Beaconsfield Ter'ce
8	E. Nield	Market Street.
8	A. Whitehead	Shadows Lane.
1	Mrs. Howard	Church Street.
3	Exors. of Miles Mitchell	High Street.
3	Steeple and Jackson	Scout.
3	William Marland	Vale Side.
26	Mrs. Batey and R. S. Buckley	Greenhill.
8	Mrs. Varley and others	,,
6	John Wilson	Castle View.
11	Fred Short	Lane End.
137		

Besides the above, there are 145 houses which are being dealt with for Defective Drainage, &c.

The following Sewering has been done during the year :—

Webster Street	60	yards.
Greaves Street	108	,,
Lees Street.....	20	,,
Greenhill Sewer	88	,,
Swine Ridge Culvert	162	,,

I have made numerous visits to the Farms, and found it necessary on several occasions to draw the attention of the Farmers to the Unsanitary State of the Cow-Sheds.

Yours Faithfully,

GEORGE H. TAYLOR,

Sanitary Inspector.

Gregory Williamson, General Printer, Mossley.